

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1086

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US MISSION USUN 1267

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, CH, UN

SUBJ: PRESS REACTIONS TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

USIS FOR IPS

1. NOV 15 VERNACULAR AND ENGLISH PRESS GAVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO SECRETARY'S VISIT ANNOUNCED BY MOFA AFTERNOON NOV 14. STORIES REPORTED OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT PARK MATTERS OF MUTUAL US-ROK CONCERN, AND QUOTED GOVT SOURCE AS STATING THAT PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO BRIEF PRESIDENT ON TALKS WITH CHINESE AND JAPANESE LEADERS. ARTICLES SPECULATED THAT SECRETARY WOULD ALSO DISCUSS US POLICY TOWARD CHINA, GRADUAL US WITHDRAWAL FROM ASIA, FUTURE OF UN FORCES IN ROK, AND US-ROK VIEWS ON KOREA QUESTION IN UNGA.

2. ARTICLES ON SECRETARY'S VISIT ALSO REPORTED SPECULATION BY "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS" THAT US AND CHINA MAY HAVE REACHED COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL ADDITIONAL U.S. FORCES FROM ROK. SEVERAL PAPERS EXPRESSED OPINION THAT PEKING VISIT WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON UN KOREA DEBATE.

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3. THREE AFTERNOON PAPERS RAN EDITORIALS ON SEOUL VISIT. MAIN THEME WAS THAT ANY BIG POWER AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND PRC SHOULD TAKE POSITION OF ROK INTO FULL CONSIDERATION. SEOUL SHINMON TOOK OCCASION TO PRESS FOR RETENTION OF UNC IN ROK, STATING THAT "IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE ABANDONED THIS POSITION FOR SOME BARGAIN WITH THE PRC."
UNDERHILL

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